Tsunami warning system

426. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is setting up its own National Tsunami Warning System, as distinct from the 'Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System' unveiled by the UNESCO recently at Paris; and

(b) if so, the distinctive features of the Indian Warning System, its present status and time-frame fixed to operationalise it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, India would be setting up its own Tsunami and Storm Surge Early Warning System with the following components:

* Strengthening of the existing seismological network to indicate in near real time occurrence of tsunamigenic earthquakes.

* Installation of tsunami warning sensors close to the ocean bottom at appropriate locales in the Indian Ocean, with real time connectivity.

* Tide gauge and data buoys networking.

* Modelling of the inundation scenarios for the entire coast.

* The establishment of a centre for collection of information, analysis and generating status advisories.

Necessary approvals for the estimated expenditure of Rs. 125 crores are being obtained. The warning system is scheduled to be operational by September, 2007.

The 'Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System' declared by Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO recently at Paris is envisaged to be a network of various proposed warning systems in the Indian Ocean region. Details of this system have not been finalized.